

Contact: Chris Berry
Reference: CB:KG

12 June 2009

Ms Kate Harris
Committee Officer
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Harris

Subject: NSW Planning Framework Inquiry

Please find enclosed my amendments to the transcript of evidence as requested.

The following comments are provided in relation to the additional question of –

1. *What training has been provided to your staff and councillors on the NSW planning arrangements?*
 - a. *Has the training been sufficient/adequate?*
 - b. *Should there be more training for staff and councillors?*

As part of the Councillor Induction process following the September 2008 Local Government Elections two separate training sessions were provided to Councillors by senior staff i.e.

- NSW Planning System Overview (see attached presentation)
 - Copies of all planning documents (eg LEPs, SEPPs, DCPs) provided.
- 2020 Strategy and New LEP Briefing (see attached presentation)

Training by the LGSA on the planning system has been offered to Councillors and several have taken up this opportunity.

Staff keep themselves abreast of changes through their professional organisations and continuing professional development programs. In addition Council support their attendance at Departmental and Industry seminars. This is considered to be adequate.

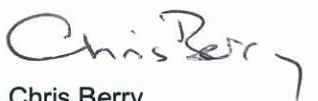
At the Councillor level training has been received positively but obviously with any significant changes, additional training could be required. Induction training for any new Councillors is essential following any election and refresher training required for Councillors re-elected.

Training and its delivery for both Councillors and staff could be refocussed with better collaboration between the Local Government associations, professional groups and State Government similar to the Victorian approach (i.e. PLANET Training and Professional Development Program).

Finally I have enclosed the completed feedback questionnaire.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 4823 4486 if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours faithfully



Chris Berry
Acting General Manager
Encl.